



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/734,440	12/11/2003	Hemanth Sampath	MP0389/13361-061001	4615
26200	7590	04/15/2009	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			HOM, SHICK C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
	2416			
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
04/15/2009	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/734,440	Applicant(s) SAMPATH ET AL.
	Examiner SHICK C. HOM	Art Unit 2416

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2009 and 19 March 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-76 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-22, 32-40, 50-76 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 23-31 and 41-49 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/17/09 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 3/19/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In page 15 of the remarks, applicant argued that by amending that claim to include a device in the pre-ample for performing the claimed method makes the claim statutory is not persuasive because reciting a device in the pre-ample does not positively tie a particular machine that accomplishes the claimed method steps nor transform underlying subject matter, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. Applicant's argument in pages 16-17 and 20-27 of the remarks that the use of bit errors in Mahany is not

the same as the use packet loss indicators in the claim because bit errors are correctable whereas packet loss is only correctable with re-transmission is not persuasive because Mahany in col 19 line 59 to col. 20 line 8 suggests and recites that bit errors indicate a communication failure has occurred and revert to a lower baud transmission and a retry clearly reads on the packet loss indicator claimed; applicant's argument in pages 18-19 that Mahany does not teach or suggest selecting a third different data rate is not persuasive because Mahany in col. 2 lines 35-57 recite the capability of switching between two or more data rates clearly reads on a third different data rate as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-18 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. While the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to particular machine, or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different

Art Unit: 2416

state or thing. See page 10 of In Re Bilski 88 USPQ2d 1385. The instant claims are neither positively tied to a particular machine that accomplishes the claimed method steps nor transform underlying subject matter, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. The method performed by a device including steps of determining signal quality value, determining packet loss indicator value, and selecting a data rate in response is broad enough that the claim could be completely performed mentally, verbally or without a machine nor is any transformation apparent. For example, determining signal quality value and packet loss indicator value and selecting a data rate could be performed by a person merely looking at reported the values and mentally selecting a data rate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claims 55-72 and 76 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not describe a

computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon as recited in claims 55-72 and 76.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-4, 16-22, 34-40, 52-58, and 70-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mahany et al. (5,483,676).

Regarding claim 1, 19, 37, and 55:

Mahany et al. disclose a method comprising: determining a received signal quality value from received packets transmitted at a first data rate (col. 22 lines 11-22 recite transmitting a test signal to determine the quality of the radio link by analyzing the received signal strength measurement to decide on a dynamic basis whether a higher data transmission rate is feasible; and the abstract specifically recite the test signal

being transmitted at a low data rate clearly anticipate the transmitted signal at the first data rate; further Figs. 13-16 and col. 4 lines 27-40 recite that the digital data transmitted being type of communications frame clearly anticipate receiving and transmitting data packets);

determining a packet loss indicator value from transmitted packets transmitted at a second data rate (col. 25 lines 44-58 recite transmitting a high data rate poll and evaluating the occurrence of bit errors in the decoding, i.e. packet loss indicator, in order to use a lower rate clearly anticipate transmitting packets at a second data rate, i.e. the high data rate); and

selecting a third different data rate in response to the received signal quality value and the packet loss indicator value (col. 2 lines 35-57 recite the communications equipment being able to switch between two or more data rates in response to the test and selection signals to the rate which has been determined to be the optimum rate, which may be neither the low or high rate, clearly anticipate the third different data rate).
Regarding claims 2, 20, 38, and 56:

Mahany et al. disclose wherein the received signal quality value is selected from an RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indicator) value, an SNR (signal to noise ratio) value, an SINR

(signal to interference noise ratio) value, and a SQM (signal quality measure) value, the SQM value comprising a mean of the SNRs across all of a plurality of tones (col. 21 lines 1-7 recite signal quality being based on the received signal strength indicator).

Regarding claims 3, 21, 39, and 57:

Mahany et al. disclose wherein the data loss indicator value is selected from a retry counter value, a bit-error update value, a data error update value, a symbol error update value, and a CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check) indicator value (col. 17 lines 5-13 recite the comparing the total number of error against a threshold value to make data rate decision; col. 19 line 7-17 recite using bit error rate BER; and col. 28 line 62 to col. 29 line 5 recite the use of Cyclic Redundancy Check).

Regarding claims 4, 40, and 58:

Mahany et al. disclose wherein said selecting comprises selecting the third different data rate from a plurality of available data rates (col. 2 lines 35-57 recite switching between two or more data rates).

Regarding claims 16, 18, 34, 36, 52, 54, 70, and 72:

Mahany et al. disclose decreasing the selected data rate in response to the packet loss indicator value increasing as in claims 16, 34, 52, 70; and selecting a fourth data rate value

directly from the packet loss indicator value in response to the received signal quality value falling below a minimum signal quality value as in claims 18, 36, 54, 72 (col. 17 lines 5-13 recite comparing number of errors against threshold for selecting the 9600 baud operation and if error is above this level the 4800 baud operation is used; and col. 2 lines 35-57 recite switching between two or more data rates clearly anticipate the fourth data rate value).

Regarding claims 17, 22, 35, 53, and 71:

Mahany et al. disclose wherein said decreasing comprises decreasing the selected data rate in response to data rate values in a table indexed by available data rates and packet loss indicator values as in claims 17, 35, 53, 71 (col. 25 lines 59-67 recite the use of a stored table for adjusting the rate and col. 15 lines 11-21 recite the data rate being programmable under software control clearly reads on the use of a table as claimed).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2416

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 14-15, 32-33, 50-51, 68-69, and 73-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahany et al. (5,483,676) in view of Yavuz et al. (7,075,913).

For claims 14-15, 32-33, 50-51, 68-69, and 73-76, Mahany et al. disclose the apparatus, computer-readable medium, and method described in paragraph 7 of this office action.

Mahany et al. disclose all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of the step of increasing a transmit power for transmitting packets in response to the selected data rate falling below a first data rate; and decreasing the transmit power in response to the selected data rate exceeding a second data rate as in claims 14, 32, 50, 68; wherein the second data rate is greater than the first data rate as in claims 15, 33, 51, 69; and wherein the transmitted packets and received packets comply with one of the IEEE 802.11 family of specifications as in claims 73-76.

Yavuz et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teach that it is known to provide the step of increasing a transmit power for transmitting packets in response to the selected data rate falling below a first data rate; and decreasing the transmit power in response to the selected data rate exceeding a second data rate; wherein the second data rate is greater than the first data rate (col. 2 lines 5-19 recite the relationship between power and rate, i.e. higher transmit power is needed to support higher rate); and wherein the transmitted packets and received packets comply with one of the IEEE 802.11 family of specifications (col. 1 line 62 to col. 2 line 4 recite the use of a plurality of operating standards

clearly anticipate one of the IEEE 802.11 family of specifications as claimed).

Thus, it would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the steps of increasing a transmit power for transmitting packets in response to the selected data rate falling below a first data rate; and decreasing the transmit power in response to the selected data rate exceeding a second data rate; wherein the second data rate is greater than the first data rate; and wherein the transmitted packets and received packets comply with one of the IEEE 802.11 family of specifications as taught by Yavuz et al. in the communications network of Mahany et al.

The step of increasing a transmit power for transmitting packets in response to the selected data rate falling below a first data rate; and decreasing the transmit power in response to the selected data rate exceeding a second data rate; wherein the second data rate is greater than the first data rate; and wherein the transmitted packets and received packets comply with one of the IEEE 802.11 family of specifications can be implemented by connecting the packet data network including the step of increasing a transmit power for transmitting packets in response to the selected data rate falling below a first data

Art Unit: 2416

rate; and decreasing the transmit power in response to the selected data rate exceeding a second data rate; wherein the second data rate is greater than the first data rate; and wherein the transmitted packets and received packets comply with one of the IEEE 802.11 family of specifications of Yavuz et al. to the network of Mahany et al.

The motivation for providing the step of increasing a transmit power for transmitting packets in response to the selected data rate falling below a first data rate; and decreasing the transmit power in response to the selected data rate exceeding a second data rate; wherein the second data rate is greater than the first data rate; and wherein the transmitted packets and received packets comply with one of the IEEE 802.11 family of specifications as taught by Yavuz et al. in the mobile communication system and method of Mahany et al. being that it provides more desirable added feature of increasing and decreasing power in response to data rate and more efficiency for the system since the system uses a standard family of specifications for transmitting and receiving packets.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 23-31 and 41-49 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Theobold et al. disclose a wireless network self-adaptive load balancer.

Cheung et al. disclose multimedia stream pre-fetching and redistribution in servers to accommodate mobile clients.

Knightly et al. disclose a method and apparatus for performing measurement-based admission control using peak-rate envelopes.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHICK C. HOM whose telephone number is (571)272-3173. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pham Chi can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chi H Pham/
Supervisory Patent
Examiner, Art Unit 2416
4/11/09

SH